

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) is required in order to make an examiner's amendment which places this application in condition for allowance. During a telephone conversation conducted on 09-24-2008, Richard S. Myers, Jr. requested an extension of time for ONE MONTH(S) and authorized the Director to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2752 the required fee of \$60 for this extension and authorized the following examiner's amendment. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

See the below final claim listing:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented). A container for storing or transporting at least one contaminated item, comprising:

a plurality of polymeric, multi-layered chemical composite flexible walls that are impervious to gases and liquid and define an interior chamber that has sufficient dimensions to accommodate said contaminated item;

a gas-tight closable and openable opening for placing and removing said contaminated item in the interior chamber; and an

air management system that filters and releases pressure from the inside of said interior chamber and includes:

a pressure relief valve to allow the release of gasses to prevent over pressurization in the container, and

an air-purifying system that comprises at least one of an air-purifying cartridge or canister to filter air exiting the container through the valve.

Claim 2 (Original). The container of claim 1, wherein said at least one contaminated item is a human or animal body, bodily remain, or forensic sample.

Claim 3 (Original). The container of claim 1, wherein said multi-layered chemical composite is a thermoplastic resin selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl chloride, chlorinated polyethylene, chlorinated butyl, polyethylene, high density polyethylene, low density polyethylene, linear low density polyethylene, polypropylene, polyurethane, PTFE, combinations thereof, or multiple-layered coextruded films which include one or more layers of ethylene-vinyl acetate, ethylene vinyl alcohol, polyvinyl alcohol, nylon, Surlyn (ionomer), polyester.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Previously Presented). The container of claim 1, wherein the air-purifying canister comprises a nuclear, biological, and/or chemical filter canister.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented). The container of claim 1, wherein the air-purifying respirator cartridge or canister comprises at least one layer of chemisorptive media.

Claim 7 (Original). The container of claim 6, wherein the chemisorptive media is activated carbon.

Claim 8 (Original). The container of claim 6, wherein the chemisorptive media is nuclear, biological, and chemical absorbent.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Previously Presented). The container of claim 1, wherein the container maintains about 4-inch positive air pressure with up to about a 20 percent drop in pressure after four minutes in a standard inflation test .

Claim 11 (Original). The container of claim 1, wherein said gas-tight closable and openable opening is a zipper.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented). The container of claim 11, wherein the zipper comprises PVC, PE, Hytrel, PP, butyl, neoprene.

Claim 13 (Original). The container of claim 1, wherein the multi-layered chemical composite is resistant to at least one of Sarin, Mustard, Soman, nerve agent, Lewisite, tear gas.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented). The container of claim 1, wherein the multi-layered chemical composite is resistant to toxic industrial chemicals.

Claim 15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Original). The container of claim 1, wherein said multi-layered chemical composite is layered with a thermoplastic polyolefin elastomer layer.

Claim 17 (Original). The container of claim 11, further comprising a thermoplastic interface material that joins the zipper with the multi-layered chemical composite.

Claim 18 (Original). The container of claim 1, wherein said walls form an extended tubular body.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented). The container of claim 1, wherein said walls are joined by hermetic seams.

Claim 20 (Original). The container of claim 19, wherein said seams are sealed with a chemically resistant tape.

Claim 21 (Original). The container of claim 19, wherein said seams are sealed with heat, radio frequency welding, or impulse welding.

Claim 22 (Original). The container of claim 1, further comprising a polymeric abrasion-resistant fabric surface.

Claim 23 (Original). The container of claim 22, wherein the polymeric abrasion-resistant fabric comprises polyvinyl chloride.

Claim 24 (Original). The container of claim 1, wherein the interior chamber comprises a super adsorbent polymer.

Claim 25 (Original). The container of claim 24, wherein the interior chamber comprises adsorbent pads adhered to the walls that define said chamber.

Claim 26-41 (Canceled).

Claim 42 (Previously Presented). A container for storing or transporting at least one contaminated item, comprising:

a polymeric composite flexible wall that is impervious to gases and liquid and define an interior chamber that has sufficient dimensions to accommodate said contaminated item;

a gas-tight closable and openable opening for placing and removing said contaminated item in the interior chamber; and an

air management system that filters and releases pressure from the inside of said interior chamber and includes:

a pressure relief valve to allow the release of gasses to prevent over pressurization in the container, and

an air-purifying system that comprises at least one of an air-purifying cartridge or canister to filter air exiting the container through the valve.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: remaining rejected claims 26-32 have been canceled.
3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William L. Miller whose telephone number is (571) 272-7068. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Victor Batson can be reached on (571) 272-6987. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/William L. Miller/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3677